

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th February 1886.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.                 | Names of newspapers.             | Place of publication.    | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>ASSAMESE.</b>    |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 1                   | "Assam Vilásini" ... ..          | Sibsagar ...             | .....                           |   |
| 2                   | "Assam News" ... ..              | Ditto ...                | 450                             |   |
| <b>BENGALI.</b>     |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 3                   | "Ahamnadi" ... ..                | Tangail, Mymensingh..    | .....                           |   |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 4                   | "Sansodhini" ... ..              | Chittagong ...           | 800                             | 18th February 1886.                                 |
| 5                   | "Purva Darpan" ... ..            | Ditto ...                | 700                             |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 6                   | "Ananda Bazar Patriká" ... ..    | Calcutta ...             | 700                             | 22nd ditto.   |
| 7                   | "Arya Darpan" ... ..             | Ditto ...                | 102                             | 19th ditto.   |
| 8                   | "Bangabási" ... ..               | Ditto ...                | 20,000                          | 20th ditto.   |
| 9                   | "Bháratbási" ... ..              | Ditto ...                | 3,000                           | 20th ditto.   |
| 10                  | "Bhárat Mihir" ... ..            | Ditto ...                | 2,500                           | 18th ditto.   |
| 11                  | "Bherí and Kushadaha" ... ..     | Ditto ...                | .....                           | 19th ditto.   |
| 12                  | "Burdwán Sanjivani" ... ..       | Burdwan ...              | 302                             | 23rd ditto.   |
| 13                  | "Cháruvartá" ... ..              | Sherepore, Mymensingh    | 500                             | 15th ditto.   |
| 14                  | "Dacca Prakásh" ... ..           | Dacca ...                | 450                             |   |
| 15                  | "Education Gazette" ... ..       | Hooghly ...              | 825                             | 19th ditto.   |
| 16                  | "Grámvartá Prakáshiká" ... ..    | Comercolly ...           | 500                             |   |
| 17                  | "Hindu Ranjiká" ... ..           | Beauleah, Rajshahye...   | 200                             | 17th ditto.   |
| 18                  | "Kamalá" ... ..                  | Calcutta ...             | .....                           |   |
| 19                  | "Mussulman Bandhu" ... ..        | Bhowanipore, Calcutta    | .....                           |   |
| 20                  | "Murshidábád Patriká" ... ..     | Berhampore ...           | 508                             | 17th ditto.   |
| 21                  | "Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... ..  | Ditto ...                | .....                           |   |
| 22                  | "Nava Mediní" ... ..             | Midnapore ...            | .....                           | 20th ditto.   |
| 23                  | "Navavibhákár" ... ..            | Calcutta ...             | 1,000                           | 22nd ditto.   |
| 24                  | "Paridarshak" ... ..             | Sylhet ...               | 450                             | 20th ditto.   |
| 25                  | "Prajá Bandhu" ... ..            | Chandernagore ...        | 995                             | 19th ditto.   |
| 26                  | "Pratikár" ... ..                | Berhampore ...           | 600                             | 5th ditto.  |
| 27                  | "Purva Bangabási" ... ..         | Noakholly ...            | .....                           |   |
| 28                  | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ..    | Kakinia, Rungpore ...    | 205                             | 18th ditto.   |
| 29                  | "Sádháraní" ... ..               | Calcutta ...             | 812                             | 21st ditto.   |
| 30                  | "Sahachar" ... ..                | Ditto ...                | 500                             | 17th ditto.   |
| 31                  | "Samaya" ... ..                  | Ditto ...                | 2,350                           | 22nd ditto.   |
| 32                  | "Sanjivani" ... ..               | Ditto ...                | 4,000                           | 20th ditto.   |
| 33                  | "Sáptáhi" ... ..                 | Ditto ...                | .....                           |   |
| 34                  | "Saraswat Patra" ... ..          | Dacca ...                | 400                             | 20th ditto.   |
| 35                  | "Som Prakásh" ... ..             | Changripottá, 24-Perghs. | 1,000                           | 22nd ditto.   |
| 36                  | "Srimanta Saudagár" ... ..       | Calcutta ...             | .....                           |   |
| 37                  | "Sudhápán" ... ..                | Ditto ...                | .....                           |   |
| 38                  | "Sulabha Samáchar" ... ..        | Ditto ...                | 3,000                           | 20th ditto.   |
| 39                  | "Surabhi and Patáká" ... ..      | Ditto ...                | 700                             | 18th ditto.   |
| <i>Daily.</i>       |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 40                  | "Dainik" ... ..                  | Calcutta ...             | 7,000                           | 21st to 25th February 1886.                         |
| 41                  | "Samvád Prabháhar" ... ..        | Ditto ...                | 200                             | 20th to 25th ditto.                                 |
| 42                  | "Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ... .. | Ditto ...                | 300                             | 20th to 22nd ditto.                                 |
| 43                  | "Samachár Chandriká" ... ..      | Ditto ...                | 625                             | 23rd and 24th ditto.                                |
| 44                  | "Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ..  | Ditto ...                | 500                             |   |
| <b>HINDI.</b>       |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 45                  | "Kshatriya Pratika" ... ..       | Patna ...                | .....                           |   |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 46                  | "Chumparun Hitakari" ... ..      | Bettia ...               | .....                           |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 47                  | "Behar Bandhu" ... ..            | Bankipore ...            | .....                           | 18th February 1886.                                 |
| 48                  | "Bhárat Mitra" ... ..            | Calcutta ...             | 1,500                           | 22nd ditto.   |
| 49                  | "Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ..          | Ditto ...                | 500                             | 20th ditto.   |
| 50                  | "Uchit Baktá" ... ..             | Ditto ...                | 4,500                           |   |
| 51                  | "Hindi Samáchar" ... ..          | Bhagulpore ...           | 1,000                           |   |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b>     |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 52                  | "Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ..          | Calcutta ...             | 250                             | 12th and 19th February 1886.                        |
| <b>URDU.</b>        |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 53                  | "Gauhur" ... ..                  | Calcutta ...             | 196                             |   |
| 54                  | "Sharaf-ul-Akhbar" ... ..        | Behar ...                | 150                             |   |
| 55                  | "Al Punch" ... ..                | Bankipore ...            | .....                           | 19th February 1886.                                 |
| <i>Bi-weekly.</i>   |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 56                  | "Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ... ..   | Calcutta ...             | 340                             |   |
| <i>Daily.</i>       |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 57                  | "Urdu Guide" ... ..              | Calcutta ...             | 212                             | 22nd to 25th February 1886.                         |
| <b>URIYA.</b>       |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 58                  | "Taraka" ... ..                  | Cuttack ...              | .....                           |   |
| 59                  | "Shikshabandhu" ... ..           | Ditto ...                | .....                           |   |
| 60                  | "Pradip" ... ..                  | Ditto ...                | .....                           |   |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |   |
| 61                  | "Utkal Dipiká" ... ..            | Cuttack ...              | 200                             | 13th February 1886.                                 |
| 62                  | "Balasore Samvad Váhika" ... ..  | Balasore ...             | 205                             | 11th ditto.   |
| 63                  | "Sebaka" ... ..                  | Cuttack ...              | 200                             | 13th ditto.   |



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Pratikár*, of the 5th February, characterises as hateful all that has happened and is still happening in Burmah, and is at a loss what to say about it. Human beings cannot act in this way. Theebaw has been dethroned because he was a monster in human shape; but have the English acted like men in taking the kingdom out of his hands?

PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 5th, 1886.

2. The *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 17th February, says that the English have unjustly annexed the kingdom of Burmah for extending their Empire in the East. But it will be very difficult to retain it for a long time. There is a possibility of war with China for Burmah. The Chinese will become as dangerous a neighbour in the East, now that Burmah has been annexed, as the Russians are on the West. The English could easily have secured their own interests in Burmah by raising a Burmese Prince to the throne. The English administration of any country is very costly. If the English govern Burmah, it will be a burden on India. The Burmese war alone has brought about the imposition of the Income-tax.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 17th, 1886.

3. The *Paridarshak*, of the 20th February, says that the exhibition of weakness in the West and of courage in the East, coming one after the other, shows that the English can devour the weak, but that they find it difficult to defend themselves against the strong.

PARIDARSHAK,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

4. The *Bhárat Bási*, of the 20th February, says that the native newspapers have uniformly and unanimously opposed the action of Government in Burmah. This has become intolerable to the Anglo-Indian Press, which supports Government. The *Pioneer* says that the Native Press does not remember that Government did its best to bring King Theebaw and his ministers to their senses. The Native Press is aware that Lord Dufferin and Her Majesty have said so. But it does not know how the attempt was made, what was written to Theebaw, and what reply he sent. If Government has acted justly, why does it not publish these things for the information of the people? Every civilized Government sets forth reasons for entering into a war, but Lord Dufferin has not done even that.

BHARAT BASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

The writer does not think that the influence of any other European nation in the Burmese Court would have produced evil consequences for India. Anglo-Indian papers informed the people that the French were taking a lease of the timber forests in Burmah, and that they had been entrusted with the work of constructing Railways in Burmah. The writer does not understand how this could be injurious to the people of India. The thing is, English merchants were making great profit by the timber trade in Burmah, and they would have been losers if the French had been entrusted with the construction of Railways in that country. But the profit or loss of English merchants has nothing to do with the people of India. The merchants asked the Viceroy to undertake the conquest of Burmah. The Viceroy found that Burmah was neither Russia nor Germany, and so he conquered it. The English may not see anything wrong in this; but others are aware why Burmah has lost its independence.

The Native Papers have not yet become aware of the massacres in the palace at Mandalay. Where did the *Pioneer* get the information? Theebaw might have been guilty, but what have the Burmese done to deserve the loss of their independence? The appointment of another King would have preserved the dignity of the English people. Dacoits used to annoy the villagers in British Burmah. In every hill country they do so. Government thought that Theebaw's officers instigated them, but the writer does not know the reason why it thought so. The writer thinks it to be his duty to warn



Government to become cautious. Russia can easily follow the Burmese policy of England and conquer Persia. If Government restores Burmah even now to native rule, it can prevent Russia extending her sway towards the south.

BHARAT BASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

5. The same paper says that Bhamo will probably be made over to China. China says that Burmah was subject to her. She has often fought with England and China.

Burmah for her supremacy over that country. The English will not pay tribute to China for holding Burmah, and so a permanent arrangement will have to be made with China. England has perhaps come to its senses by seeing the discomfiture of France, and so she will not raise many objections in making over Bhamo to China.

BANGABASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

6. The *Bangabasi*, of the 20th February, says that it has been disappointed at the perusal of the Burmese Blue-book. The book has simply summarised the reasons set forth in the Anglo-Indian newspapers for the Burmese war. The principal charges against King Theebaw, as set forth in that book, are as follow :—

(1) The massacres of October 1878. But King Theebaw himself told the special correspondent of the *Times* that he knew nothing of these massacres, and that when he heard of them he took a religious vow which he kept for a long time.

(2) The massacres of October 1884, in which some British subjects also were killed. The Blue-book does not set forth either the details or the reasons of these massacres. It does not state whether those men were killed for any crime or not. The Resident was not present at Mandalay at the time. The friendship of the King with the French, his unwillingness to encourage free trade, had made the English order their Resident to leave the Court. Under such circumstances the English were enemies to the King, and the charges brought by them against him would not therefore be readily believed. What is there to show that the British subjects who were killed by the King had not joined in conspiracies against him ?

(3) Some washermen belonging to the Residency were apprehended by the police at night for going without lights. A Captain was on another occasion insulted for going through a prohibited road. These are instances of the high-handedness of the police, which is prone to oppression in every country. But in the British territories the police is never punished, while the King has punished his police for both the above offences.

(4) An Englishman shot down a dog, and he was pursued by some Burmese soldiers.

(5) Thirty Burmese coolies were on one occasion being carried away from Burmah in a steamer belonging to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, and they were rescued by the Burmese Government without whose permission no Burmese subjects could leave Burmah. It cannot be blamed for having done a duty.

After giving a list of these crimes of the Burmese King, the Viceroy proceeds to say that "British subjects in Upper Burmah have been maltreated, and adequate redress has been persistently refused or delayed." But these are minor offences, and no fool will ever believe that these led to the subversion of Burmese independence. Lord Dufferin has himself said that "the commercial privileges secured by the treaty have been infringed ;" and "the Government of Mandalay was bent upon welcoming to the upper valley of the Irrawaddy extraneous influences." By extraneous influence the Viceroy means the French. Englishmen could not tolerate the idea that the influence of the French should be paramount in Burmah. Mr. Bernard wrote in



July that "the French Consul has ideas of lending the King money, and eventually occupying in Ava some such position as the East India Company held in Bengal above a century ago." But Mr. Bernard being a tolerably good man proceeded to say: "But nothing has yet occurred which, in my judgment, warrants diplomatic representation to the French Government." After hearing this from Mr. Bernard, the Viceroy was in quest of a pretext, and this was furnished to him in a short time. He says: "These various circumstances were occupying our attention when the Burmese Government rendered some definite action necessary by imposing an arbitrary fine of serious amount upon a British Trading Company." Again the Secretary of State for India says: "The arrogance and barbarity of a Native Court, the oppression of British subjects, the hinderance of British commerce, the intrigues of foreign nations, are for ever terminated in Upper Burmah." These words should be written in letters of gold. The English were very miserable in Burmah. The King was an Asiatic, and he intrigued with the French who were foreigners. But the English are not foreigners, nor are they natives of the country. They are the real well-wishers, the real heirs of the King. A native ruler has no right. The French have no right to go to Burmah. The white men of Albion alone are entitled to go freely to Burmah, rule there, take service there, and enjoy the loaves and fishes of the country.

7. The *Sádháraní*, of the 21st February, says that, while the English condemn Napoleon for his cruelties in Egypt, they do not consider that they themselves do not shrink back from the commission of such cruelties. History does not speak of acts which in point of cruelty can be compared to the shooting down of the innocent infant sons of the Emperor of Delhi by Colonel Hodgson at the time of the Sepoy Mutiny. During the last Afghan War, intelligence was received every day of the hanging of Afghans by the English. The English are very reluctant to treat a vanquished enemy with heroic generosity. They have shown this defect of their character in Burmah also. The fact of the commission of cruelties in Burmah by the English has been published in respectable English papers themselves. The English are not contented with killing the Burmans; they are also taking photographs of the dying men while suffering excruciating agony. A generous Englishman has published an account of these cruelties in the newspapers; but these cruelties have not awakened indignation in the heart of the English people. No good will come of an enquiry into the matter by Government, as an attempt will be made to exculpate the English officers. Lord Dufferin is responsible for all the evils that have come of the Burmese War. It is he who engaged in the war. The stains on his character may be effaced to some extent if he can put an end to the cruel treatment of the Burmese and punish the guilty officers.

8. The same paper says that had the Burmese, who are fighting against the English, been really dacoits, as they are called by the English, they would not have gladly sacrificed their lives. The Burmans who have not surrendered themselves at the demand of the English cannot be called rebels. Men cannot be called rebels for trying to defend the freedom of their country.

9. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 22nd February, says that it is stated in the Blue-book published by Government on the annexation of Burmah that the first offence of Theebaw was that he committed various acts of oppression upon British subjects. But the few acts of oppression described in the Blue-book are such that they appear less cruel than those committed by

SADHARANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1886.

SADHARANI.

ANANDA SAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.



the police in many places of British India. If the Burmese officials forcibly brought back certain persons who had disobeyed the orders of the King and ran away, how could the King be blamed for that? The British Government, which has been in various ways insulted by Germany, Russia, and France, and has quietly put up with the insult, would have shown real greatness if it had not minded the petty offences of Theebaw. As to the charge of cruelty brought against the King in the Blue-book, it is to be remarked that, after protracted official enquiries, he has been declared innocent. Moreover, if the English who killed Theodore of Abyssinia, and carried devastation through his kingdom, who committed various acts of oppression upon the Lushais, Afghans, Egyptians, the Soudanese and the Burmese, and who harassed the people of India after the Sepoy war, complain of the cruelties of King Theebaw, not to speak of others, even Englishmen like the Duke of Marlborough and Mr. Bright will feel ashamed. It is said that Theebaw killed the Burmese official who had carried to him the news that the Government of India had refused to sell arms and ammunition to him. The editor does not know how far this allegation is true. Even if it were true, Russia or France might say that by sending General Gordon to Khartoum without proper preparations, the British Government had killed him. The statements made in the blue-book are all *ex-parte*, and it has been published after the annexation of Burmah. This will cause great doubts. If, instead of seeking to prove the guilt of Theebaw and to establish their own innocence, Government had clearly said that Theebaw had been deposed because he was weak, the statement would have been intelligible while the annexation of Burmah would not have caused so much trouble.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

10. The same paper says that if, as has been decided upon, Burmah is ruled by the sword, the English must admit that the Burmese are not pleased with

the English occupation of their country, that Theebaw was popular, and that Russia who rules her Central Asian subjects by the sword cannot be blamed for doing so. Lord Dufferin did not when at Mandalay spend the night in the palace which had been furnished for his use, but slept on board his ship. This, remarks the writer sarcastically, he did not do for fear of his life, but to escape the awkward consequences of a contact with the Burmese who might wish to show him their gratitude.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

11. The *Som Prakash*, of the 22nd February, says that it is not likely that the dispute of England with China will be easily settled. It is said that China

has claimed the Burmese territories extending up to the river Salween. The writer apprehended such a quarrel with China beforehand. A quarrel with China is inevitable unless Bhamo is given to her. It is not easy to hold a foreign country without troubles.

SOM PRAKASH.

12. The same paper says that the first alleged cause of the war with Burmah is the massacre of the members of the family of Theebaw's predecessor. But Theebaw was not concerned in those murders. The English Government has also no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Burmah. The second alleged offence of the Burmese King is the dreadful massacre of 1884. But the English Government did not enquire whether the persons massacred were guilty or not. When the massacre happened there was great hostility between the English and the Burmese. It being so, the mere statement of the English unsupported by any other evidence cannot be believed. It is said that the men were massacred because they had caused an insurrection against the Burmese Government. In order to prove the mismanagement of affairs in Burmah, some instances of oppression by the Burmese police have



been mentioned. If this be a cause of the Burmese war, cannot a foreign power treat the English Government as it has treated the Burmese Government upon seeing the numerous instances of police oppression in India?

13. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd February, says that the first charge brought against the Burmese Government by the English is oppression of British

Burmah.

subjects. It is said that Burmese officers who oppressed them were not adequately punished. But those who oppressed the washermen, subject to British rule, were sentenced to a whipping of ten stripes each. The officer who oppressed a British Captain was degraded. The writer asks, what greater punishment the English Government would have inflicted upon its own officers for such offences? It is also questionable whether Mr. Shaw's statement should be implicitly believed without hearing the other party. As for the second accusation that Burmese officers took away from an English Captain of the Flotilla Company 50 Burmans whom he was conveying in his ship, the writer says that in this matter the Captain who had no right to take away Burmese subjects must be considered guilty. As for the third accusation, namely, the murders committed by King Theebaw, the statement of the English Government cannot be implicitly believed without hearing the other party. Because the Burmese Government indicated in its reply to the letter of the English reproving the Burmese King for these murders, that there was no provision in the treaty between England and Burmah which empowered England to interfere in the internal affairs of Burmah, it has been found guilty by the English Government. The English have always treated the weak in this manner. The writer also does not believe the fourth accusation that for the reproof thus administered by the English Government the Burmese King prepared for war and desisted merely because English troops were sent to Rangoon. The fifth accusation is that several Burmese officers got angry and entered the house of an English officer named Mr. St. Barbe, because he had killed a dog. But Mr. St. Barbe's men confined three of these men. Still the Burmese King has been found guilty. The sixth accusation is based upon the report of an English spy to the effect that a maid of the Burmese Queen was murdered for intriguing against the Burmese King. After this the British Resident was recalled from Burmah. At this the Burmese King asked for a new treaty conferring upon him the right of importing arms and ammunition; but the English Government did not consent to such a treaty. After this the Burmese King injured British trade by monopolizing the trade of Burmah. Everybody knows that this injury of British trade, which injury is nothing more than the prevention of the English monopoly of Burmese trade, is the real cause of the war with Burmah. The seventh accusation is that the Burmese King entered into a treaty with France. The English Government did not believe the statement of the French Minister that the treaty was purely a commercial one. Everybody knows that Burmah has been annexed from the fear of France; but the English have been able to do no injury to the powerful French. The eighth accusation is that the Burmese King committed some other murders than those mentioned above; but this is an *ex-parte* statement, and cannot therefore be believed. Lord Dufferin in making out a case against Burmah has laid special stress upon the treaty with France. He has distinctly said that the illtreatment of the Bombay and Burmah Trading Company is only a minor cause of the annexation of Burmah. The writer cannot understand how Lord Dufferin could say that native editors were opposing the Burmese war because they were not aware of the true facts of the case. Native editors

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb 22 nd, 1886.



knew all the facts published in the Parliamentary blue-book. They have always said that Burmah has been annexed, and will be held with Indian money for the benefit of English merchants. The writer says that facilities for British trade and the establishment of order in Burmah could be secured without its annexation. The annexation will rather increase than decrease the probability of dangers from French hostility. It will be a matter of regret if Mr. Gladstone becomes a party to the annexation of Burmah under these circumstances.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

14. The same paper says that the Conservatives cannot be blamed for employing Indian troops in Burmah without asking for the consent of Parliament, as Indian troops were sent without such consent before to Egypt, Malta and Abyssinia. According to the English Government, it is necessary for the defence of India to overawe Russia, to defend Egypt, and to annex Burmah.

DAINIK,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886

15. The *Dainik*, of the 22nd February, says that the English have not yet been able to conquer Burmah. They have not been able to pacify Burmah with 10,000 English troops. As long as dacoities continue the writer will think that the English are the losing party. The English have fallen into a great difficulty by occupying Bhamo in a stealthy manner. China has now claimed it. The English are trying to come to a compromise with China. Perhaps they will have to give up Bhamo. If the Indian Empire extends to the borders of Annam, the French will be as great a source of danger in the East as the Russians are in the west.

SAMAYA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

16. The *Samaya*, of the 22nd February, says that the day on which the English occupied the palace at Mandalay great outrages were committed in spite of the presence of English troops. The commission of outrages gradually grew general and spread throughout the country.

Burmah was for a long time tributary to China, which has an eye on it. War has not yet broken out with that power because it has or at least professes to have friendship with the English. But from the character of the latter it can be easily inferred that the friendship will not last long.

What will become of the treaties entered into by Theebaw and his father with other nations? The English will easily be able to destroy the treaties made with weak States. But treaties have also been made with powerful nations like Italy, Germany, and France.

Lord Dufferin has not yet settled how the administration of Burmah will be conducted. If the English want to do good to the people they should govern the country by the people themselves, and introduce changes as the circumstances of the country alter. The writer waits to see what arrangement Lord Dufferin makes for the conduct of affairs. Whatever the arrangement be, the conquest of Burmah will ever remain a blot on the fair fame of England though Englishmen think it to be a glorious achievement.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Feb. 24th, 1886.

17. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 24th February, says that the Conservative Government had determined that the cost of the Burmese war should be borne by the people of India, and the Liberal Government did not alter the determination. India will have to bear the cost. The writer thinks that Burmah should be separated from India from this time.



## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

18. A correspondent of the *Rungpore Dik Prakash*, of the 18th February, notices a fatal accident caused by the furious riding of a constable at Comarcolly through a crowded bazar road. The police arrests every one who rides furiously, but in this case a police officer is guilty of the offence. The police is all in all in the mofussil. There is no one to punish a police officer when he is guilty.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

19. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 19th February, says that the Superintendent of the Jessore Police is at loggerheads with the Magistrate of the district. The Magistrate has deducted three days' pay of the Superintendent because he went to Calcutta for three days. The writer thanks Mr. Barton for having fined an English officer.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

20. The *Nava Medini*, of the 20th February, hears of the prevalence of thefts and dacoities in the vicinity of Calcutta, and attributes it to the inefficiency of the police. Unless Government takes speedy measures to put a stop to these evils, people will find it very difficult to preserve their lives and properties.

NAVA MEDINI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

21. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd February, says that many persons regard with a suspicious eye the dacoity which has been recently committed in the house of Javad Chandra Nandi of Jagaddal in the Sonapore Municipality. There have existed for a long time party spirit and quarrel between the zemindar and the ryots in that place. It is not known whether the dacoity has any connection with those circumstances. Be that as it may, the Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police of the 24-Per-gunnahs should carefully enquire into the matter themselves without relying upon subordinate police officers.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

22. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 19th February, is glad at the expulsion of touters from the Calcutta Police Court, and hopes that Magistrates in the mofussil will co-operate with the pleaders in their courts to bring about the same result.

ARYA DARPAN,  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

23. The *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, says that the *Nava Medini* has brought certain charges against Bazlul Karim, the Deputy Magistrate of Ghattal, which it is ashamed to publish. When charges of adultery, rape, and so on have been brought against an officer, Government should be ashamed to remain indifferent. The writer requests Government to enquire into this serious matter.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

24. The *Rangabási*, of the 20th February, thinks that the people of Cuttack will be very glad to hear that their Courts will not be removed from their present sites. Mr. Metcalfe, the Commissioner of Orissa, has said that the people of Cuttack sent a memorial on the subject to Government in a hurry without ascertaining the facts of the case. The writer does not think that they are much to blame for what they have done.

BANGABASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.



BANGABASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

25. The same paper says that Mr. Rampini is well known to the people of Calcutta. He served for a time as Legal Remembrancer, and also as a Judge of the Alipore Court. He is now at Dacca. He was holding the sessions about the time of the Sripanchami. He insisted on the jurors' attending and working at his Court on the Sripanchami day. They prayed to him that they might be exempted from attending Court on that day as they were prohibited by their religion to touch pen or ink on that day. Mr. Rampini ordered that they should be fined for non-attendance. In the proclamation of 1858 the Queen solemnly declared that her Government would remain neutral in the matter of religion. Mr. Rampini is going to break that solemn pledge. Government could not tolerate the idea that natives should hold municipal meetings on Sundays, and it prohibited holding Sunday meetings by a resolution, but it is now silent when Mr. Rampini wants to make Hindus work on a day sacred to their religion.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

26. The *Ananda Bazar Pariká*, of the 22nd February, says that the recent acquittal by Mr. Justice Bayley of the Bombay High Court of a European who had caused the death of another European by kicking him will only have the effect of increasing the highhandedness of Europeans in this country. Formerly Europeans who murdered natives were let off, but Europeans murdering Europeans were punished; but the recent acquittal indicates a departure from the old practice.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

27. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd February, says that the fact that though crimes are diminishing, as the Lieutenant-Governor has himself admitted, in the places where the jury system has been introduced, Sir Rivers Thompson is hostile to the system, naturally arouses suspicion in one's mind. In the Administration Report of 1883-84, the Lieutenant-Governor was silent. But in the Report of 1884-85, Sir Rivers has said that jurors are as usual unwilling to convict persons on the charge of murder. All this has a suspicious look. One will not have to go far to find the secret reason of Sir Rivers' hostility to the jury system. When the Ilbert Bill was introduced, experienced officials like Sir Alfred Lyall and native papers recommended an extension of the system of trial by jury. Agitations were made upon that subject on all sides. Lord Ripon too expressed an opinion in favour of an extension of the system. Since that time civilians have become hostile to the jury system. Evil counsellors have gradually increased this hostility to the system in the heart of Sir Rivers Thompson. Now native jurors are being found fault with on all sides lest Lord Dufferin should follow the example of Lord Ripon. The system of trial by jury has diminished the power of the Judges. It is true that the Judges can refer cases wherein they differ from the jury to the High Court. But Judges do not venture to do so in all cases as the verdict of the jury is in many instances upheld by the High Court. The power of revision of judgment possessed by the High Court is a sufficient guarantee against failures of justice. It being so, there must be some other reason for hostility to the system.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

28. The same paper does not know what eminent service Sir Richard Garth has done to deserve pension before serving the full term of his office. This arrangement has probably been made in order to prevent the appointment of Mr. Justice Mitter as Officiating Chief Justice. Lord Dufferin is appointing a Committee for the reduction of expenditure, but, at the same time, money is being spent in this manner.



## (d)—Education.

29. The *Pratikár*, of the 5th February, says that the abolition of the Berhampore College will be wrong, though it is recommended by the Education Commission. The reasons for retaining the College are the following:—

PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 6th, 1886.

- (1) It promotes the education of the people of the district and especially of the locality.
- (2) Murshidabad was formerly the capital of Bengal, and the English got the sovereignty of Bengal from Murshidabad. To deprive it of its College will not be creditable to the English Government.
- (3) The people of Murshidabad cannot go to other places for receiving their education, as there is no good communication from it to the cities in which there are colleges.
- (4) Murshidabad was a very rich place at one time. It is very poor now. It is not proper to put any obstacle in the way of its poor people receiving a good education.
- (5) Government may say that the local public should bear the cost of maintaining the College; but the people of the place are in no condition to maintain a College. If either Maharani Swarnamayi or Srimati Arnakali can take upon herself the charge of maintaining the institution, it can be maintained, otherwise not.
- (6) The local municipality cannot bear the charge; it is very poor.
- (7) If the people had known that the College would be abolished so soon, they would not have raised the building at so great a cost.
- (8) The College building is situated at a great distance from the inhabited quarters of the city, and this is the reason why the number of its students is so small, and such a small sum of money is realized in fees. The school rules made by Mr. Livingstone also tend to diminish the number of students.

The College can be easily maintained if Government reduces the scale of salaries of the College staff. It can be maintained if Government spends Rs. 803 a month instead of Rs. 2,049 the cost of its establishment at the present moment.

There is a sum of Rs. 15,000 in the College Fund over and above what Rajiblochan and Radhacharan left for it. Why then should the College be abolished?

30. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Berhampore Mission School is a flourishing institution. The Mission Fund is a rich fund. Why then have the authorities of the school taken Government aid? If they have to take aid, why do they not allow Government officers to inspect their school? Is this the fruit of their superior culture and of their English politeness?

PRATIKAR.

The Berhampore Mission School.

31. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 18th February, thanks Lord Ripon and Mr. Ilbert for the establishment of the six State scholarships.

SURABHI & PATAKA,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

The State scholarships.

32. The *Sansodhini*, of the 18th February, says that Babu Dinanath Sen would never have left the Education Department had Government given him an

SANSODHINI  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

Babu Dinanath Sen.



Inspectorship of Schools. But now, as he is going away, he should be honored for his past services.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

33. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 19th February, requests the Director of Public Instruction of Bengal to do something for

Technical education. technical education in this country, as it is very backward in commerce and manufacture. The writer suggests that teachers be appointed in Normal Schools to teach carpentry or some such work. A beginning was made in this respect some time ago by the late Babu Gopal Chandra Banerjee at the Calcutta Normal School, and also by Baboo Dinanath Sen at Dacca, but with no good result.

NAVA MEDINI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

34. The *Nava Medini*, of the 20th February, is sorry to hear that the abolition of the Berhampore Government is going to abolish the Berhampore College. It will do a great harm to the people of Murshidabad by taking this step.

SARASVAT PATRA,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

35. The *Sárasvat Patra*, of the 20th February, requests the authorities to appoint Babu Taraknath Sen, the Deputy Inspector of Schools of Dacca, to officiate for Babu Dinanath Sen, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Dacca. Babu Taraknath has established many schools and pathshalas. He has a good reputation as an inspecting officer. He is the senior Deputy Inspector of the Dacca Circle. He acted for two months as Assistant Inspector during the absence on leave of Babu Dinanath Sen. The writer hopes that Mr. Hill will nominate the Babu for the post.

BHARAT BASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

36. The *Bhárat Bási*, of the 20th February, says that at one time Government used to give scholarships to encourage people to proceed to England, but they were subsequently abolished. The writer is glad to notice that they are going to be re-established at the instance of Professor Monier Williams. Government has earned the gratitude of the people by this act.

BHARAT BASI.

37. The same paper finds fault with Mr. Tawney, the Director of Public Instruction, who has the reputation of being a just man, for appointing Mr. H. Lane, an Eurasian graduate at once to the fourth grade of the Subordinate Education Service, while the native graduates are generally appointed to the sixth grade.

PARIDARSHAK,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

38. The *Paridarshak*, of the 20th February, approves of the circular order issued by Mr. E. B. Clarke, the Officiating Inspector of Schools, Assam, that the teachers of those schools from which students appear in examinations should not be allowed to enter the examination hall. It also approves of another rule made by Mr. Clarke authorising head-masters of English schools teaching up to the Entrance standard to introduce alterations into the list of text-books for their schools. This is a move in the right direction, for many worthless books had been introduced of late on the pretext of carrying out the recommendations of the Education Commission.

SADHARANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1886.

39. The *Sádháraní*, of the 21st February, says that the establishment of the six State scholarships as inducements is no longer necessary to make natives go to England for education. The scholarships have been established for the benefit of Professor Monier Williams' Indian Institute. Though Government will have to spend from 20 to 25 thousand rupees annually upon these scholarships, the country will derive no great benefit from that expenditure. Only a few persons will be benefited by it. Government should spend money upon objects which will benefit the whole nation. It should now spend money upon mass education.



40. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 22nd February, is glad that after a long time Government has established six State scholarships to enable native youths to prosecute their studies in England.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

41. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 18th February, disapproves of the election of Dr. Simpson, who is unacquainted with native ways and manners, as Health Officer of Calcutta. The writer thinks that Dr. Krishnadhan Ghose should have been appointed to the post.

SURABHI & PATAKA,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

The post of Health Officer of Calcutta.

42. The *Bharat Mihir*, of the 18th February, says that the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality have made a great mistake in appointing Dr. Simpson as their Health Officer in disregard of the claims of Dr. Ghosh. Dr. Simpson is indeed an able man, but has no knowledge of this country, and it is doubtful whether he will prove a success. Dr. Ghosh would have been a most successful Health Officer.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

43. The *Nava Mediní*, of the 20th February, says that according to rules the budgets of municipalities should be framed at least two months previous to the year for which they are made. Accordingly the Commissioners of the Ramjivanpore Municipality requested Moulvi Buzlul Karim to call a meeting. He did not comply with that request. On the 29th January the Commissioners caused the Vice-Chairman to call a meeting on the 4th February, but he did not attend the meeting. The Commissioners made one of their own body to become their President and prepared the budget. But as soon as the budget reached the hands of the Moulvi he got incensed, returned it to the Commissioners as illegal, and told them that he would go in a short time to Ramjivanpore and call a meeting. When he reached Ramjivanpore a woman complained to him that the Commissioner who presided at the last meeting had attempted to commit rape on her. He called a meeting on the 14th February for framing a new budget, but the Commissioners refused to make any alteration in their budget. The Moulvi upon this drafted a Resolution and sent it to the Magistrate with his own remarks. The writer asks Government to make an enquiry into this matter. The account given is not at all exaggerated. Unless the officer is transferred the people will be greatly harassed.

NAVA MEDINI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

The Health Officership of Calcutta.

44. The same paper is very sorry to hear that Dr. K. D. Ghose has not been appointed the Health Officer for Calcutta.

NAVA MEDINI.

45. The *Bangabási*, of the 20th February, says that Dr. Simpson may be a great physician in England, but what claim has he to the Health Officership of Calcutta? The writer is afraid that he is perfectly ignorant of the manners and customs of the people of India.

BANGABASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

The Health Officership of Calcutta.

46. The *Sádháraní*, of the 21st February, says that Dr. Mohendrolal Sircar was justified in considering Dr. Simpson a more competent man than Dr. Ghose. Had the election of a Health Officer for the municipality been a race question, Dr. Sircar could have been blamed for recommending Dr. Simpson for the post; but as it was a question of merit, he cannot be blamed for his act. If Dr. Ghose is a really competent Health Officer, his stay in the mofussil will be more beneficial to the

SADHARANI,  
Feb. 21st, 1886.

Election of Dr. Simpson as Health Officer.



country than his stay in Calcutta. A competent health officer is required for the mofussil which is very unhealthy.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SAMAYA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

47. The *Samaya*, of the 22nd February, says that the work of the collection of rent in wards' estates under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is not being done satisfactorily. The eyes of the Lieutenant-Governor have been opened at last. He has put pressure on the Collectors of districts for the realization of these rents. The writer thinks that the system of collection in these estates is at fault. Unless the system is improved it is useless to put pressure on officials.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

48. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd February, says that the Court of Wards is now trying to deprive the Dowager Maharani of Burdwan of the estates enjoyed by her during the lifetime of her husband, and to the possession of which by her no objection was raised by the late Aftab Chand. No objection would have been raised to the possession of those estates by her if Aftab Chand had been alive. Under these circumstances, is not the conduct of the Court of Wards unjust? The Court of Wards is forcibly depriving the Maharani of her estates by an abuse of the powers conferred by the Court of Wards' Act. Mr. Miller, the Manager of the Burdwan Estate, wrote to the Commissioner of Burdwan to enforce section 47 of the Court of Wards' Act against the officers of the Sujamutha Estate who have made themselves scarce with papers relating to the estate. But before this section can be enforced against them, it should be decided in a civil court whether the officers are servants of the Court of Wards or of the Maharani. The above provision cannot be enforced against anybody except the officers of the Court of Wards. Nor can Act VII of 18<sup>50</sup> be enforced against the ryots of the estate who are refusing to pay rent to the Court of Wards until the question of rights has been decided. And yet the Commissioner has given orders for the enforcement of the above provisions. The Board of Revenue also have cancelled the Dowager Maharani's name from the Collector's register, and substituted those of the managers for it. This should not have been done without the decision of the question of right. Though the High Court characterised such cancellation of the Maharani's name from the Collector's record, in connection with the Kujung estate as illegal, a similar act has been done in connection with the Sujamutha estate. Such oppressions could not have taken place if the officers of the Court of Wards had been made subject to civil courts by the Court of Wards' Act as they were by the Regulation of 1793.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

49. The same paper says that, now that Government is going to amend certain provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, it should amend the provisions relating to the grant of receipts by making them clearer. It should be distinctly stated whether a receipt will have to be given to the ryots for each instalment of rent, and whether the nature of the ryots' right in the land should be stated in the receipt. Many ryots are refusing payment because zemindars would not make mention of such rights in the receipt. According to law zemindars are entitled to an interest of one per cent. per month for arrears of rent; but there is not the item of interest in the form of rent-receipt. This item should be inserted in the form.



(g)—*Railways and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.*

50. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 22nd February, says that the metalled road between Ranaghat and Santipore is in a very bad state of repairs. When a carriage passes over the

SOM PRAKASH,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

The road between Ranaghat and Santipore.

road, clouds of dust arise. If Government does not soon repair the road the passengers will die of chest diseases on account of the dust entering their lungs with their breath.

51. The *Samaya*, of the 22nd February, says that the people of Akna and surrounding villages have been put to great inconvenience owing to the

SAMAYA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

The Kolar bridge in Hooghly.

fact that the Kolar bridge has given way. The writer asks the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to call for an explanation from the Magistrate of Hooghly and the District Engineer, and to issue special orders for the speedy construction of the bridge.

(h)—*General.*

52. The *Pratikar*, of the 5th February, says that the relation between Sir Rivers Thompson and the Native Press

PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 5th, 1886.

Sir Rivers Thompson and the Native Press.

is like that between the serpent and weasel, and that he cannot issue a report without making some adverse remark or other against it. He has expressed his regret that there is want of courtesy and truth in native newspapers, that they believe in rumours and indulge in personal abuse, and that they are in the habit of abusing Government and opposing its measures. He has praised the Urdu papers in this respect. It is axiomatic that Sir Rivers will not find anything good in Bengali papers. When he abuses these, they consider themselves praised. They never expect praise from him. The writer is sorry (?) that their connection with Sir Rivers will not last for a long time.

53. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Madhabkati in Satkhira, notices that a wolf has severely mauled several persons at Chupuria in

PRATIKAR.

Wolves in Chupuria in Satkhira.

Satkhira. The wolves are committing great havoc among the cattle in ten or twelve villages in the neighbourhood of Madhabkati. The writer hopes that the Deputy Magistrate of Satkhira will remedy the evil.

54. The *Murshedabad Patrika*, of the 17th February, says that

MURSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 17th, 1886.

The Retrenchment Committee.

Government is wasting the money belonging to a very poor nation who find it difficult to earn their bread. The high scale of pay of the European officers in this country was fixed during the administration of the East India Company. The circumstances of the country have changed considerably since that time. A journey from England to India has become easy, and many are anxious to serve in India.

Government is in want of money. The imposition of the income-tax will not supply the want, and so retrenchments must be made. But the eyes of the Retrenchment Committee will never fall on the high pay of the Europeans. The pay of the natives will be reduced. Many clerks, chaprassies, duffries, and peons will lose their employment. Many Munsifships and Deputy Magistrateships will be abolished, and the pay of many more will be reduced. Already Mr. Justice Prinsep has recommended the abolition of the Judgeship of Small Cause Courts in Nuddea and Jessore.

55. The same paper says that the imposition of a new direct tax or of any tax creates discontent. Distrust of the loyalty of the loyal subjects breeds

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA.

The income-tax.



discontent. The monopoly of high offices by Europeans, the different procedures for the trial of native and of European offenders, and the Arms Act are fruitful sources of discontent. The official classes do what they please. They never wait for the opinion of the people in the matter of imposing new taxes. Now the income-tax is going to be imposed. Local officers are busy in determining the income of the people. They go to a village, see the houses and huts, enter into some houses, enquire of the owner what his income is, and note down whatever he says about the income of others, and in many cases he gives wrong information to wreak his vengeance on those with whom he is not on good terms.

Government wants to fill the treasury by imposing taxes on those who maintain themselves partly by their earnings and partly by loans. This sort of taxation is a bad source of income. It cannot but be attended with injustice and oppression.

The Select Committee has displayed its one-sidedness by exempting all military officers who get Rs. 500 a month. People in the villages will be greatly oppressed for the tax on their dwelling-houses, because in villages the houses are never let for rent. At the time of the imposition of the license-tax the taxable minimum was fixed at Rs. 200 a year, but subsequently it was raised to Rs. 500 a year; but as a matter of fact people with Rs. 200 a year are still paying their tax inasmuch as they have been assessed for Rs. 500 a year.

The income-tax has been represented as an extension of the license-tax. Now the license-tax was imposed for the purpose of famine relief; but at the time of famine money was not found in the treasury. It had been previously spent in the Soudan war. So the object of the income-tax is not the same as that of the license-tax. The income-tax is going to be imposed to meet the expenses of the Burmese war and of the preparations for Russian war; but the re-imposition of the import duties, the abolition of the system of residence of Governors in the hills, or the reduction of the high pay of European officers would have been quite sufficient to meet the cost of these measures without the imposition of a fresh direct tax.

SAHACHAR,  
Feb. 17th, 1886.

56. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, is sorry that only a single native, and he an official, has been taken into the Financial Committee, which will consider

The Financial Committee.

how the money paid by Indians is being spent. There can be no doubt that some Indians should be taken into the Committee. Enquiry by a Committee, constituted like the Financial Committee, cannot be satisfactory to natives.

SAHACHAR.

57. The same paper, referring to the confirmation of the annexation of Burmah by the Liberal Ministry, though Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville both protested against that step in Parliament, says that neither Liberals nor Tories oppose the annexation of a country when an opportunity for annexation presents itself. Liberals always profess generous views.

The English political parties and annexation.

SAHACHAR.

58. The same paper is dissatisfied with Government's censure on the native press in the Administration Report.

Government and Bengali papers.

It is, however, a matter of congratulation that Government has censured only a section of the native press instead of passing a sweeping censure on the whole native press. So long as Government does not consider native papers to be friendly counselors, it will not be well. Condemnation of guilty officials by newspapers does not prove their hostility. Government should value such hostile criticisms of newspapers.



59. The *Surabhi and Patáka*, of the 18th February, referring to the rumour that Mr. Sterndale will be appointed Cantonment Magistrate of Dum-Dum, says

Mr. Sterndale.

that the people of Calcutta will be very happy at this news because they were alarmed at the prospect of his confirmation in the post of Collector of Calcutta. But the writer asks, how will Mr. Sterndale obtain a post which is held by military men alone? But as he is a favourite of the Lieutenant-Governor, even impossible things seem possible.

SURABHI & PATAKA,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

60. The same paper says that by his presence at the farewell dinner given to Mr. Keswick, the object of whom

Sir Rivers Thompson and the  
farewell dinner to Mr. Keswick.

and of the Association established by whom

was to injure natives, Sir Rivers Thompson has practically declared that he is a leader of the anti-native Anglo-Indians. The man who publicly joins such a body in defiance of justice and good manners is not fit to be Governor. Bengalis will be glad if Sir Rivers Thompson's term of office expires soon.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

61. The same paper asks, is it necessary for the Lieutenant-Governor to be present at a great cost of

Waste of money upon useless tours  
of Governors.

money at the opening of the Purneah Railway? Government should put an end to

such waste of money at this time of financial difficulties.

62. The same paper says that Lord Dufferin has not done anything beneficial to India. He has wasted a

The increase of the army.

large sum of money upon showy but worth-

less objects. He is also spending money upon the strengthening of the frontier, and is increasing the strength of the army by the addition of 30,000 troops. If he persists in this policy, Indians will be undone. This increase of army will be the greatest monument of Lord Dufferin's glory. It will impose an additional burden upon Indians, which will weigh upon them so long as British dominion remains in India. Lord Dufferin will raise another monument to his glory if he accepts the recommendation of a worthy that the appointment of a larger number of English officers to native regiments is necessary for the proper discipline of native troops. Has that worthy so early forgotten how gallantly native troops fought in the Soudan under their native officers? The writer is glad that the Presidency Association of Bombay have submitted a petition to the Secretary of State protesting against the increase of the army.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

63. The *Sansodhini*, of the 18th February, draws the attention of the postal authorities to a complaint made by one

A peon at Patia.

of its correspondents that a peon belonging

to one of the post offices in the Patia thana extorts an extra fee for the delivery of letters from the people of the villages of Vaidyapara, Gevala, &c., and that he often sends letters through others.

SANSODHINI,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

64. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 18th February, says that the Financial Committee which is composed almost entirely

The Financial Committee.

of Englishmen, and which will only

enquire whether the salaries of officers are capable of reduction, is a farce. If Government really wants to reduce expenditure it should appoint a Committee, of which only one or two members should be officials, and the remaining members should be selected from different Indian provinces, and which should be directed to enquire what posts can be filled up with natives.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

65. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 18th February, says that the Government of India is a despotism, and is not

Government and justice to the  
people of India.

concerned for the opinions of the two

BHARAT MIHIR.



hundred and fifty millions of people whose destinies are entrusted in its hands. In everything that it does, Government follows the policy of favouring Europeans. The manner in which the proceeds of the hard-wrung taxes are spent has no connection whatever with the wishes of those that pay them. Government takes money for one purpose and spends it for another. It deprives the poor of their morsel of bread in order that it may enrich the already wealthy Englishmen. This injustice will last until a united and vigorous agitation is set up by the people of India. The English nation will not support this unjust policy. What Ireland is seeking to day, in time must be granted to India.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

66. Referring to the statement of the Calcutta correspondent of the *Pioneer* that the loud applause with which the toast proposed by the Lieutenant-Governor

Sir Rivers Thompson.

at the recent Keswick Dinner in honour of Mr. Keswick was received by the guests, shows that His Honor is liked by everybody, the same paper (the *Bhārat Mihir*) says that it is needless to say that the Lieutenant-Governor is popular with Europeans. Considering the unworthy disposition evinced by Sir Rivers Thompson by his hostile attitude towards Bengalis during the Ilbert Bill agitation, at the Trades' Dinner, in season and out of season, and the sympathy that he has shown for Europeans by doing his best to guard their wrongful interests in all matters and at all hours, what narrow-minded European, who is hostile to Bengalis, will not show him respect? What is to be regretted is that His Honor is the favourite of Europeans. Seeing that Sir Rivers benefits a handful of his countrymen at the expense of the millions over whom he has been set to rule, why should not that handful of men be pleased with him? He would not have gone to the dinner that day had he not been popular with Europeans. But he must have, by this time, perceived how far he is popular with natives. On the occasion of his recent visit to Mymensingh, with the exception of the local officials and a few zemindars who were present at the request of the Magistrate, no other persons went to receive the Lieutenant-Governor. Did not His Honor re-call to his mind at that time the manner of reception which was accorded to Lord Ripon at Calcutta?

BHARAT MIHIR.

67. The same paper says that, in the place of a Financial Commission which was promised by Lord Dufferin, His Excellency has ended by

The Financial Committee.

appointing a Financial Committee composed of a few officials. But it is idle to refer to that subject now. In this matter Government has but followed the usual course. The license-tax was imposed for the purpose of meeting the Famine expenditure, but the revenue raised by means of the tax was applied to other purposes. Government broke its promise and disregarded public opinion. At length the sapient Sir Auckland Colvin pointed out that it was the people who had misconstrued the policy of Government, and that Government had never promised not to spend the proceeds of the license-tax for purposes other than those of famine relief. Referring to the resolution constituting the Financial Committee, the writer says that it is well that Government has become anxious to reduce expenditure, but this anxiety is only affected. Had it been real, the Editor would not have protested against the imposition of an income-tax. While on the one hand Government was pressing for retrenchments in all directions, it was, on the other, increasing the salaries of the Punjab Civilians, and granted, against the rules, Sir Rivers Thompson leave on full pay. Of course, it would have no objection to make retrenchments by starving the Education Department and poor clerks. Why does Government try to throw dust in the eyes of the people by saying that the newspapers do not know what famine relief works are being undertaken by it? The newspapers



are aware that Government did not grant sufficient relief to the sufferers from the effects of the late inundations in Bengal. Will railways in Burmah and the Bolan Pass remove the poverty of the people? Has Government acted up to the recommendations of the Army Commission? The army expenditure has not been reduced; on the contrary, it is going to be increased by the recent addition to the army of ten thousand European troops. What is the remedy when Government thus breaks its promise at every step? In the resolution referred to, Government tells the Financial Committee not to interfere with recent arrangements. Certainly the increase of pay granted to the Punjab Civilians and the recent increase of the army are referred to. It seems clear that poor clerks alone will be the victims of the retrenchments this time. Why did not Government raise in the resolution the question of the expenditure incurred in the annual exodus of officials to the hills? The public will not gain anything by the appointment of the Committee, and will only have to pay its expenses. The man must be foolish who should expect any benefit from Lord Dufferin who is always great in promises.

68. The *Arya Darpan*, of the 19th February, says that the enormous public debt of the Government of India is due to the extravagant expenditure indulged

Retrenchments.

in by it. Government is imposing taxes to raise increased revenues, but shows no sign of reducing its ever-increasing expenditure. The views of the public on this matter should be communicated to Parliament. The newly appointed Financial Committee cannot be expected to do what is required. The members are almost all of them officials, the very persons who waste the revenues of this country, and who are not likely to recommend any reduction of the high salaries granted to European officials, or a more extensive employment of natives in the public service. The natives do not want such a Committee. The Committee should be composed of able Englishmen who must be brought out from England.

ARYA DARPAN  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

69. The *Prajā Bandhu*, of the 19th February, says that Government distrusts native troops. At the time when war with Russia appeared imminent, it proposed to place the Martini-Henri rifles in their hands, but it has broken its promise as soon as that danger is over. Will it never attempt to remove the reproach of distrusting its own troops?

Distrust of native troops.

PRAJĀ BANDHU,  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

70. The *Bheri*, of the 19th February, is sorry to hear that many have severed their connection with the India Club because it invited Sir Rivers Thompson to one of its evening parties. The writer does not know how the authorities of the Club can be blamed for inviting the ruler of Bengal, Behar and Orissa.

Sir Rivers Thompson and the India Club.

BHERI,  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

71. The same paper cannot expect from the constitution of the Retrenchment Committee, on which all the members, except one, are Europeans, that it will reduce those expenses which benefit Europeans. They will simply reduce the number of clerks in small offices. The consequence of this will be that the head of the office will come in for increase of pay owing to overwork caused by the reduction of establishment. The Committee will also recommend the withdrawal of aid from aided institutions.

The Retrenchment Committee.

BHERI.

72. The *Sārasvat Patra*, of the 20th February, is glad to notice that Sir Rivers Thompson mixed freely with natives at Dacca. Though a great crowd gathered round him, yet the constables did not insult anybody. Sir Rivers has tried his best to please the people of Dacca by courteous conversation.

The Lieutenant-Governor at Dacca.

SARASVAT PATRA  
Feb. 20th, 1886.



UCHIT VAKTA,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

73. The *Uchit Vaktá*, of the 20th February, recommends that Syed Amir Hossein, who has officiated several times as Presidency Magistrate with credit, should be permanently appointed to that post when Mr. Biharilal Gupta is promoted to a Judgeship.

BHARAT BASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

74. In noticing the appointment of Mr. Sterndale as temporary Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, the *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 20th February, remarks that Sir Rivers Thompson will never rest until he can give a permanent appointment to Mr. Sterndale, who is so old that he should think of going back to England. The Cantonment Magistracies were generally believed to be reserved for military men; but many strange things have happened under the rule of Sir Rivers Thompson, and this is one of them.

BHARAT BASI.

75. The same paper says that the constitution of Lord Dufferin's Retrenchment Committee has given great dissatisfaction to the people, and the political associations have memorialised Government, praying for the appointment of a large number of non-officials and natives to the Committee. No good can be expected from a Committee composed entirely of officials as the Retrenchment Committee; but Lord Dufferin is not disposed to listen to the opinions of the people.

BHARAT BASI.

76. The same paper is sorry to notice that Baboo Kissori Mohun Chatterjee has not been appointed a Presidency Magistrate. The appointment of good men to such offices cannot be expected under the rule of Sir Rivers Thompson.

AMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

77. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 20th February, says that the Sir Rivers Thompson and the native newspapers are an eyesore to Sir Rivers Thompson. They cannot be looked upon with favour by one who considers the legitimate aspirations of natives as misguided. The native papers, if they are to discharge their duties properly, must tell the truth, and therefore they cannot help at times criticising rather severely the action of Government and its officers. If these criticisms be interpreted to express hostility to Government, the native papers must either remain silent in all matters connected with Government, or support its measures against their conscience. It is a fact that native papers have to depend on rumours. But Government should not complain of it, as it does not help the native papers in the least, while it showers its favours on English papers.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

78. The *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, says that Babu Girish Chandra Dass has been summarily dismissed from the Junior Government Pleadership of Dacca for signing a requisition convening a meeting to discuss the action of the Dacca Municipality in making grand preparations for the reception of the Lieutenant-Governor. The writer thanks Girish Babu heartily for showing, what he thinks, moral courage, for which the people of Dacca are well known. He is also informed that the Government officers of Mymensingh tried to give a grand reception to His Honor, but the public did not join them. Can Bengalis show hearty respect for the Ruler who sympathised with the Anglo-Indian Defence Association by being present at the farewell dinner given to Mr. Keswick?

SANJIVANI.

79. The same paper says that the Retrenchment Committee will have no power to go beyond the limits fixed by the resolution recently issued by Government about military expenditure, and yet all experienced men say that, without a



reduction of the military expenditure, the financial position of India can never be improved. People expected that Government would give the Committee power to reduce expenditure in all departments. The very fact that the Committee has not been given the power to make retrenchments in the military department shows that Government is not sincere in its desire for retrenchments. The Committee will end its labours by abolishing a few insignificant appointments in small departments under Government. Government has given the Committee power to suggest reduction of expenditure, whether military or not, incurred in England on behalf of India, but Government has no power to reduce expenditure on this head without the concurrence of the Government of England.

80. The same paper hears that Mr. Bernard, the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, will make over charge of his office to Mr. Peacock. Mr. Bernard is opposed to coercive measures and to the annexation of Burmah, and so he is going away.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

81. The *Nava Medini*, of the 20th February, is very sorry to hear of the illness of Mr. Bernard, who is a liberal-minded man. He was opposed to the annexation of Burmah. This is perhaps one of the causes of his taking leave.

NAVA MEDINI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

82. The *Bangabasi*, of the 20th February, says that the strength of the Indian army is going to be increased on the ground that the troops already in the service are insufficient for the defence of the country. When the war between England and Russia was imminent last year, a sufficient number of soldiers was not stationed on the frontiers of India, a large number having been at that time employed outside of India in the Soudan. Even at the present moment a large contingent of Indian troops is stationed at Suakim on the Red Sea. There is no knowing when they are to return to India. At a time when the number of soldiers in India is not sufficient for her defence, why should her soldiers be allowed to remain in Africa?

BANGABASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

83. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 22nd February, says that, since the Hindus have always believed the Rajah of Pooree to be commissioned to worship the god Jagannath, and since many parts of the worship cannot be performed except in the presence of the Rajah, or of his representative, the brahmins, religious feelings of the Hindus will be deeply wounded if the Rajah is deprived of the privilege of conducting the worship of the god. The Rajah has not been guilty of any such negligence in worship from the Hindu religious point of view as will justify Government in interfering in the matter. Government should leave the Rajah in the possession of his present privilege, and make good arrangements for the management of the affairs of the temple of Jagannath.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

84. Another correspondent of the same paper says that a tiger is committing great ravages in Habibpore and adjacent villages. Already many beasts have been killed by it. The Arms Act prevents people from removing such danger.

SOM PRAKASH.

85. The *Sar Sudhantidhi*, of the 22nd February, remarks that there is peace in the country or otherwise, according as the Viceroy is peaceful or otherwise. Under Lord Lytton there were the Afghan war and risings of savage tribes. Under Lord Dufferin too there is danger on the North-Western Frontier and an insurrection of savage tribes, and there has been a war with Burmah.

SAR SUDHANTIDHI,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.



ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

86. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 22nd February, says that the Government Pleader, Dacca, has been dismissed from the service owing to his having taken part in a meeting called to protest against the action of the Dacca Municipality in voting an address to Sir Rivers Thompson. So famous has Sir Rivers become in this country, or so greatly is he respected by Bengalis, that if he were to have an address from them it would be necessary to resort to measures as highhanded as those adopted in the case under notice. But in this case Government has probably made a mistake. It is probable that the pleader will now, in consequence of what has taken place, obtain a more extensive practice than he has hitherto enjoyed.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

87. The same paper says that it is difficult to say whether the people of India ought to be glad or otherwise at the news that Mr. Gladstone has thrown the cost of the Burmese war upon their shoulders. The editor believes that the more oppressed the people are by Government, the stronger will they become politically.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

88. The same paper says that, learning that the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Rivers Thompson and the widow-marriage movement in Mymensingh. Surja Kanta Acharjee Chowdhuri and some other native gentlemen of the district, set on foot a movement for the re-marriage of Hindu widows. The editor does not sympathise with the movement, but hopes that the Rajah will, like Rajah Pramatha Bhusan of Naldangah, gain the object of his desire, the title of Maharajah.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

89. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 22nd February, says that Sir Rivers Thompson will have to fight hard for an increased allotment of expenditure for Bengal. The writer has urged before that the expenditure of Bengal should be increased instead of being diminished. Still Sir Rivers Thompson has reduced expenditure by a large sum. The expenditure is not capable of further reduction. The only item of expenditure which is capable of reduction is the salaries and allowances of officials. About five lakhs of rupees are spent every year upon the acting allowances of Civilians. The writer recommends that acting allowances should not be allowed to Civilians drawing salaries of above Rs. 500. But no one will venture to displease the Civilians by this step. The writer requests the Government of India to reduce the expenditure in the Salt Department by appointing qualified natives on lower salaries in place of Eurasians. Will the Finance Committee listen to this recommendation? Expenditure on the Forests Department also may be reduced by the admission of a larger number of native officers.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

90. The same paper is glad that both Liberals and Conservatives have consented to the appointment of a Committee to enquire about the administration of India. But the appointment of a Committee instead of a Commission has disappointed the writer. As a Committee has been appointed, enquiries will not be made in India.

DAINIK,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

91. The *Dainik*, of the 22nd February, says that the Ministry has resolved to appoint a mixed Commission from both the houses of Parliament. The writer thinks that really god-like Englishmen who are friends of India should be appointed as members of the Commission. The Ministry would do well to select the members with the approval of the people of India, and to consult Indian public opinion as to the mode of operation of the Commission. Much good can be expected if the members are appointed after



mature deliberation and in consultation with the native papers and native political associations. The wants of India should be made clearly known to the Commission. If a mistake is made in the beginning, it would be useless to raise a clamour afterwards.

92. The *Dainik*, of the 23rd February, says that the Dacca Municipality made great preparations for the

Sir Rivers Thompson at Dacca.

reception of Sir Rivers Thompson on the

occasion of his visit to East Bengal. The Dacca People's Association protested against the expenditure of people's money without their consent. Mr. Secretary Peacock hearing of the protest, and finding the name of the Junior Government Pleader in the published requisition, instantly sent for the Magistrate of Dacca, and in the course of half an hour dismissed the pleader from his post. This is a strange thing. Nothing against Government was discussed at the meeting of the people. It discussed the action of the Municipality only. People will have no refuge if matters are carried in this way. Never was a man punished so promptly for what he did, and that without being asked to give an explanation. Government is gradually displaying so much magnanimity and righteousness that people should beware of it.

DAINIK,  
Feb. 23rd, 1886.

93. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 25th February, is astonished to find that

India and the expenses of the Bur-  
mese war.

Mr. Gladstone has said that India should

URDU GUIDE,  
Feb. 25th, 1886.

bear the whole expenses of the Burmese war, by the annexation of which India has not at all benefited.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

94. The *Pratikar*, of the 5th February, says that by making an amend-

The Chowkidari Bill.

ment of the Chowkidari Act, Government

is taking away the little self-government power which was left in the hands of the panchayets. The panchayet system is very old in this country, and Government is showing great magnanimity by abolishing the last vestiges of that ancient system. Government will gain its object indeed by making the amendment it has proposed, but the country will be ruined. Strong protest should be made against the passing of this Bill.

PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 5th, 1886.

95. The *Sahachar*, of the 17th February, hopes that the Bengal

The Chowkidari Bill.

Government will abandon the Chowkidari Bill. The writer does not see any necessity

for the Bill. The English Government has committed a great error in destroying the old system of village community. It has now perceived its error. The work of administration has become so heavy that Government cannot govern the country without the help of the people. Still Government would not part with its power. The pretext urged for the introduction of the Bill that the chowkidars are not regularly paid by punchayets is worthless. The real fact is that men of the type of Sir Rivers Thompson view with a feeling of alarm the growing desire on the part of the people for the right of self-government. Eagerness for the right of self-government is being seen in towns and large villages; but this example will be soon followed by the punchayets of small villages. Such agitation for self-government is, in the opinion of the officials, injurious to Government. When there will be such agitation for self-government in the country, Government will not be able to slight native papers. In order to prevent such a state of things, Government is trying to prevent such agitation among the people by destroying the punchayets on the plea of reforming the chowkidari system. The writer does not believe that the pay of the chowkidars is everywhere in arrears. Few men have

SAHACHAR,  
Feb. 17th, 1886.



greater experience about criminal cases than the writer. This experience enables him to say that, in cases in which punchayets conceal the fact of the commission of murder and other offences, they do so with the help of the police. Wherever the police sub-inspector is an honest man, the punchayets act honestly. Whenever a grave offence is committed, police officers go on an investigation, that is, go to enquire which party is able to offer the larger bribe. The responsibility of the police ends with the sending up of persons for trial. The police arrange matters in such a manner in some cases that, though the Magistrate is satisfied with the evidence produced by it, the case does not stand in the Sessions Court. There are cases, it is true, in which the police is outwitted by the wily punchayets. But such punchayets have been punished. Such things will not be seen if proper persons are selected as members of punchayets.

SAHACHAR,  
Feb. 17th, 1886.

96. The same paper says that though the chowkidari tax is now collected by a member of the punchayet with the consent of the other members, there is at times oppression in connection with its collection.

The collection of the chowkidari tax by tehsildars.

Since such is the case under the present arrangements, it can be easily imagined what oppression there will be when the tax is collected by a tehsildar who will act according to his own discretion. The villagers again will have no influence over the tehsildars who will be subordinate to Magistrates. The punchayets have, for many reasons, to fear the villagers; but it will not be necessary for the tehsildars to fear them. Great oppression will be committed if tehsildars like punchayets are relieved of all responsibility for selling the properties of one person for the arrears of tax of another. No one will be able to say anything to the tehsildars if they intrude into people's houses or commit other oppressions in collecting taxes. Under the punchayet system oppression is rare. It is not probable that several persons should combine in order to oppress a person. Good men will not be obtained as tehsildars on a salary of Rs. 18 to Rs. 20. It is a matter of regret that Sir Rivers Thompson who entrusted the collection of taxes to punchayets in order to prevent oppression is now going to entrust that power to tehsildars.

SURABHI & PATAKA,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

97. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 18th February, says that the conferring of the powers now enjoyed by punchayets upon Government officers is against the principle of self-government. When there is dissatisfaction even now when the chowkidari tax is collected by the punchayets, it can be easily imagined what great dissatisfaction there will be when the tax is collected by tehsildars. The villagers are uneasy when police officers visit the village. When circle sirdars will repeatedly visit villages according to the proposed arrangement, there will be no limit to the people's uneasiness. The tax upon the people will also increase owing to the appointment of those new officers. The control over chowkidars should be given to Local Boards, but the authority of the police should not be established over villagers.

The Chowkidari Bill.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

98. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 18th February, says that laws will not be passed keeping in view the interests of the people until the constitution of the Indian Legislative Council is changed. At present Bills are not modified out of regard for the interests of natives. The official and European element in the Council is very strong. The one or two native members are completely powerless.

The Legislative Council.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

99. The *Rungpore Dik Prakash*, of the 18th February, says that it is a matter of great regret that, instead of encouraging the spirit of self-government, Government is going to take away the little self-government that still exists in

The Chowkidari Bill.



the country by the Chowkidari Act Amendment Bill. When the Bill comes into force, the panchayets will exist but without any power.

100. The *Bheri*, of the 17th February, thinks that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal could not tolerate the idea that the villagers should enjoy the power

BHERI,  
Feb. 17th, 1886.

The Chowkidari Bill. of panchayets without molestation. He is trying to bring the panchayets under official control. The panchayets will be made puppets, and the tehsildars and circle sirdars will act just as they please. The chowkidars will be nominated by the panchayets, but they will be subordinate to the Magistrate. Peace will for ever leave the villages if this Bill becomes law.

101. The *Bhārat Bāsi*, of the 20th February, says that the unwillingness of the villagers to become panchayets proceeds from the fact that the panchayets

BHARAT BASI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

The Chowkidari Bill. are greatly illtreated by Magistrates. Government thinks that the chowkidars are not punctually paid. But have they made any complaint to Government about their pay? If they are contented with their condition, why is Government so anxious for them? Under the present law the panchayets must find the pay of the chowkidars on pain of their houses and properties being sold. The villagers and panchayets are accused of apathy in the detection of crimes. But the question is will the new law be able to make them take interest in the matter? It is certainly the interest of the villagers that there be no bad characters among them. Police officers may be annoyed at the fact that the chowkidars do not obey them because they are subordinate to the panchayets. Government can keep all powers in its own hands, but that is not desirable. Government is apparently showing great anxiety to teach self-government to the people; but if even tehsildars become police officers, people will be ruined.

102. The *Sanjivani*, of the 20th February, appeals to his countrymen to shake off their usual lethargy, and to protest

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 20th, 1886.

The Chowkidari Bill. in time against a law that will deprive them of peace and happiness. They will understand how ruinous the chowkidari law will be when the village chowkidar will inform the police of the disputes between the females in a household; when respectable families will be dishonored; when villagers will be oppressed by the police; when they will be taken to the police for trifling offences; when the cry of the bidder in sales will be heard in every village; and when the country will resound with the groans and be flooded with the tears of the poor. The ruinous character of the measure will be apparent when the circle sirdar will go on his rounds to take note of the commission of offences in villages; when people will be taken to the thana for simple assaults; when the sirdar will have to be pacified with bribes; and when people will become cowards under the stern rule of the police. The writer advises people to demand these things from Government—

- (1) That the panchayets should be elected by the majority of the taxpayers in the village;
- (2) That the chowkidars should remain subordinate to the panchayet as at present;
- (3) That the police should have no power over the panchayet; and
- (4) That the appointment of tehsildars and circle sirdars should be declared unnecessary.

Government is trying to pass this Bill in all haste. The writer advises villagers to send their petitions in the course of the next two weeks. The writer is prepared to set up a huge agitation against this measure, because he is fully convinced that its consequences will be disastrous.



An amendment of the chowkidari law has become necessary, but the proposed amendment will do more harm than good. It is a well-known fact that Sir Rivers Thompson is opposed to self-government. During Lord Ripon's administration his opposition was of little avail. The municipalities are the best school for learning self-government, and Sir Rivers Thompson has been obliged to admit that these are certain to develop into great efficiency. Government can no longer reduce the power of the municipalities, and it would be no easy matter to lay the axe at the root of self-government in this direction. The panchayet system is the best school for teaching self-government to the villagers. The failure of the panchayet system is chiefly to be attributed to the mode of appointing panchayets and to the interference of the police. Instead of ascertaining the real causes of the failure, and instead of paying any attention to the minute of Mr. Westmacott, Government, acting under the advice of enemies of self-government like Mr. Monro, is going to deprive the people of the little self-government they possess. The writer thinks that Sir Rivers cannot let slip such an opportunity of destroying self-government, and he has good reason for thinking so. Select Committees have been formed in the Bengal Legislative Council to report on several measures; but the Select Committee on the Chowkidari Bill has been called upon to report in a month, and the Committee is holding sittings unnecessarily frequent. The writer does not know whether Sir Rivers will pay any attention to the petition made by the Indian Association for extending the time to three months.

The writer thinks that, unless the villagers elect their own panchayets, the panchayet system will never succeed. According to the present law, the Magistrates have the power to appoint panchayets in consultation with the villagers, but as a rule the appointment rests with the police, and so good men do not like to be panchayets. The writer asks Government in the name of the people of Bengal to withdraw the Bill, and to allow villagers to appoint their own panchayet. There will then be no necessity of appointing either the tehsildar or the circle sirdar. But will Government have the good sense to adopt these recommendations?

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 2nd, 1886.

103. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 22nd February, says that owing to two causes the Chowkidari Bill has occasioned great agitation among the people.

These are first that the existing Chowkidari Act has been the cause of much oppression in different parts of Bengal, and it is understood that if the present Bill is passed into law, that oppression will increase a thousand-fold. The second cause is the rumour that the Bill will become law before the Lieutenant-Governor's approaching departure for Darjeeling, and even before the public has had sufficient time to discuss it. This rumour has greatly alarmed the people. Under the existing law, the chowkidars, though they do not possess as much power as it is proposed to confer upon them by the Bill, are yet given to oppression; and it is feared that when the Bill becomes law they will commit greater oppression. The authorities declare in their published reports that the police is corrupt and given to oppression, and yet they are about to place the village chowkidars in subordination to it. The pay of the chowkidars will not be higher than Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 a month, and this sum will have to be mostly spent by them in bribing their superiors in the police, while to support themselves they will find it necessary to resort to extortion. For all these reasons the people ask that the Bill may not be hastily passed into law. The measure will affect millions of ignorant natives whom it is not possible to reach by means of Gazettes or newspapers. By long agitation only can these men be informed of the nature of the changes about to be made in the chowkidari law; so that if the Bill is hastily passed it will be passed without the knowledge of those whom it will



chiefly affect, and it will produce political agitation among the illiterate masses in this country similar to that which has been caused among educated natives. It behoves the rulers to consider how far it is expedient to bring about that result.

104. The same paper says that if the Putwaries and Canoongoes Bill, which has been referred to a Select Committee, be passed into law, not only will landlords and tenants be saddled with a new tax, but the rupture of good feelings which under British rule has been caused between the parties will become complete.

The Putwaries and Canoongoes Bill.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

105. The *Samaya*, of the 22nd February, says that it is stated that villagers are unwilling to become punchayets, but in the Chowkidari Bill there is a provision to compel these men to accept the office. The punchayet will not have to collect taxes, indeed, but they will have to assess them. But when the Bill will come into force, there will be great difficulty in making assessment, because great changes have taken place in the circumstances of the people. The question of the number of chowkidars and their pay will be a fruitful source of discord. The Magistrate will, under the advice of police officers, appoint four chowkidars, where two were sufficient for all practical purposes. The chowkidars again will, acting under the guidance of the Magistrate and of the police, be bent on finding fault with the villagers. The writer does not understand how Englishmen, who boast of their civilization, can pass such a law. But the English of the present day can act just as they please. The Lieutenant-Governor wants to throw dust into the eyes of the people, but if he wants to do good both to the people and to Government he should withdraw the Bill. In every country the ruler pays the cost of the protection of life and property. But the policy of the civilized English Government moves in a contrary direction. If Government wants money, it can impose taxes as it has done on so many occasions. Why is it trying to play a trick?

SAMAYA,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

The Chowkidari Bill.

106. The *Dainik*, of the 22nd February, publishes an article communicated to it, in which the writer thinks that the unwillingness of the people to become panchayets proceeds from the fact that the police look upon both the chowkidars and panchayets with equal contempt. Good men are gradually retiring from panchayetships, giving place to ignorant men. The writer thinks that Government is responsible for the fact that chowkidars do not get their pay punctually. People murmur to pay the chowkidars because, though paid by them, they are servants, and even worse than servants of the police. The punchayets are accused of being indifferent to the detection of crimes. Their indifference proceeds from their unwillingness to have anything to do with the police. Though legally subordinate to the panchayets, the chowkidars are virtually subordinate to the police. The writer suggests that panchayets should be appointed not for single villages, but for groups of villages. Their number for each group should be five with a Chairman and a collecting panchayet. The Panchayet Committee should be subordinate to Union Committees. In the case of the commission of a crime, the police should work in consultation with the Punchayet and Union Committees, and, if need be, the Committee should report to the Magistrate of the district. Steps should be taken to see that the police does not look down upon the panchayet and to appoint leading men as panchayets. The chowkidars should be subordinate to the police as far as the exigencies of the public service require. They should not be made to cut grass for the horses of police officers.

DAINIK  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.



SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
Feb. 22nd, 1886.

107. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 22rd February, says that Sir Rivers

The Chowkidari Bill.

Thompson is trying to destroy self-government in one direction. He is going to

amend the Chowkidari Act on the plea that chowkidars are not punctually paid. But the Chowkidari Commission bears testimony to the fact that 90 per cent. of them are regularly paid; so his plea falls to the ground. The long and short of the thing is that chowkidars should no longer remain subordinate to the punchayets, but must come directly under the Government.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
Feb. 19th, 1886.

108. The *Prajā Bandhu*, of the 19th February, says that Lord

The armies of Native Princes.

Lytton became an object of hatred for passing the Arms Act. Lord Dufferin seems

to have set his heart on making himself a great object of hatred by trying to regulate the armies of Native Princes according to the revenue and population of their States, to train them under European officers, and to amalgamate them with the Imperial Army. The writer is aware that Lord Dufferin entertains such an evil motive. He travelled through the capitals of Native Princes with no other object.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SURABHI & PATAKA,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

109. The *Surabhi* and *Patākā*, of the 18th February, says that

Teaching of Hindu medical science  
to native females.

everybody should encourage the efforts of Lady Dufferin for the medical education of native women. But some persons are trying

to prove that the study of medical science by females is opposed to the Hindu religion. But the writer is glad that a leader of the Hindu society, like the high priest of the temple of Vaidyanath, has proved in a pamphlet that the study of medicine by females is not opposed to the Hindu religion. The priest has also recommended a very useful arrangement. He has recommended that native medical science too should be taught to Hindu females. There are many places in the country where the people will not consent to place themselves under medical treatment according to the English method. The writer hopes that this recommendation will be accepted.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
Feb. 18th, 1886.

110. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 22nd February, says that Lady

Teaching of Hindu medical science  
to native families.

Dufferin should pay heed to the recommendation of the high priest of the temple of Vaidyanath that native medical science

should be taught in the medical schools to be established by her. There are many places in India in which the use of English medicine is considered to be opposed to the Hindu religion.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD BAHIKĀ,  
Feb. 11th, 1886.

111. The *Samvād Bāhikā*, of the 11th February, highly approves of

The Sanskrit Titles Examination.

the arrangements made by the Education Department to conduct the Sanskrit Titles

Examination at Cuttack. It is of opinion that this would enable a large number of candidates to compete for diplomas in the above examination.

UTKAL DĪPIKĀ,  
Feb. 13th, 1886.

112. After giving a short sketch of the provisions of the Bill to conso-

The Chowkidari Bill.

lidate and amend the Law relating to Village Watchmen, the *Utkal Dīpikā*, of the 13th

February, goes on to observe that the Bill must unnecessarily curtail the



powers and privileges of the panchayet, and this circumstance militates against the principles of Local Self-Government lately introduced into the administration of the different districts of Bengal. The paper does not see any necessity for amending the Chowkidari Act.

113. The *Sebaka*, of the 13th February, draws the attention of the public to the interesting lecture of Dr. MacLeod on "Milk" delivered at the Dalhousie

Dr. MacLeod's lecture on milk.

SEBAKA,  
Feb. 13th, 1886.

Institute, Calcutta, on the 3rd of the current month, and appeals to the Cuttack Municipality in the following terms:—

"What a pity that we are being poisoned every day by the *gowalas* of Cuttack, for they never supply us with pure milk. Will not the Municipality do something to stop this?"

114. The same paper contains the following notice of the Head and Second Masters of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School:—

The Head and Second Masters of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School.

SEBAKA.

"It has been brought to our notice by certain students and their friends and guardians, upon whose statements we may rely, that the Head and Second Masters of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, while teaching their pupils in the school-rooms a few days ago came hard upon certain Brahmo students and denounced the Brahmo Somaj people as "eyeshutting class," "fools," "hypocrites," &c. \* \* \* \* \* We would remind them that it is against the rule of Government to attack any religious body in the class-room of a Government school. We request Mr. Ager to enquire into the nature of the above incident."

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 27th February 1886.



